



February 19, 2014

Written Testimony of

KLARN DEPALMA

Vice President and General Manager, WFSB-TV, Meredith Corporation
Chairman, Connecticut Broadcasters Association

Before the

Government Administration and Elections Committee

concerning

RAISED BILL NO. 5124: AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL RECORDS AND ACCESS TO RESTRICTED RECORDS IN THE STATE ARCHIVES AND RAISED BILL NO. 5127: AN ACT DEFINING THE UCONN FOUNDATION AS A PUBLIC AGENCY FOR PURPOSES OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT AND REQUIRING AUDITING OF THE FOUNDATION BY THE AUDITORS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

Co-Chair Musto, Co-Chair Jutila, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit the Connecticut Broadcasters Association's comments on Raised Bills No. 5124 and 5127, concerning amendments to Connecticut's Freedom of Information Act. The Connecticut Broadcasters Association (CBA) membership comprises all of the FCC-licensed broadcast radio and television stations in Connecticut.

The CBA strongly advocates and reaffirms its support for open government and freedom of information in the State of Connecticut. The CBA believes that it is a core principle of American democracy that the people have the right to monitor the activities of their government in order to assure that all public officials and workers are carrying out their duties honestly and conscientiously and are not abusing the public trust. In order to do so, the public must be able to see, report on, and discuss public records, which in any case are prepared or gathered by government at the public's expense and on its ultimate authority.

In light of that principle, the CBA endorses efforts to assure and expand the public's access to public records and opposes efforts to curtail either the public's traditional or its statutory rights of access. We consequently believe that affording historians in particular and the public in general access to archived records (R.B. No. 5124) and preventing stratagems that move public records outside the literal scope of the FOIA (R.B. No. 5127) constitute correct and wise policy. We hope the Legislature will agree and enact these bills.

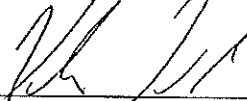
For the Record

Hearing before the Government Administration and Elections Committee
Comments of CONNECTICUT BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION, INC. on R.B. No. 5124 and 5127
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Thank you for your consideration and, we hope, positive response to our comments, respectfully submitted today.

CONNECTICUT BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

BY



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